Crash in price of coconut

799. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the coconut growers are in distress because of the crash in price of coconut;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government will take to ensure the remunerative price to the account growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA):

(a) and (b) Wholesale prices of coconut in the country which remained depressed in 2007 have started increasing from January, 2008 onwards. As against the annual average of the Wholesale Prices Index (WPI) for Coconut fresh at 130.0 (with base 1993-94=100) for the year 2006, the average of WPI for January and February of 2008 (first three weeks) has increased to 135.3.

(c) With a view to provide remunerative prices to coconut growers in the country, the Government has been fixing the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for Milling and Ball Copra on annual basis and undertaking procurement operation through the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. (NAFED). The MSP for Milling and Ball Copra fixed for 2008 season are Rs. 3600/- and Rs. 3910/- per quintal respectively.

Further, the Government would be fixing the MSP for mature dehusked coconut from 2008 season in consultation with the State Governments, NAFED and other concerned. This is expected to provide price support directly to the coconut farmers.

Implementation of programmes under NFSM in Orissa

800. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to boost the economy of the farmers, Orissa Government proposes to implement programmes under the National Food Security Mission and the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government has submitted a proposal of Rs. 850 crores to the National Food Security Mission for taking up various agricultural activities under this project; and

(d) if so, the details along with status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA) (a) to (d) The National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) have been launched during Rabi 2007-08 in the country including Orissa. The NFSM is implemented in selected districts while RKVY is implemented in all the districts of the State through District Agricultural Plans. NFSM-Rice and NFSM-Pulses are implemented in 15 and 10 districts of the State, respectively. For the implementation of NFSM interventions,

initially the State Government submitted a proposal for Rs. 849.0734 crores for five years (2007/08 to 2011/12) including Rs. 168.461 crore for 2007-08. Subsequently, the State revised its Annual Plan for 2007-08 to Rs. 30.50 crores. Against this an amount of Rs. 11.3362 crore was allocated. Under RKVY, Rs. 46.59 crore has been allocated to the State for the year 2007-08.

International factors inducing farmer suicides

801. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has analyzed the causes that led to suicide by farmers in some States; if so, what are the findings of the survey;

(b) whether it is a fact one of the reasons that led to suicides by farmers is that agriculture has become unremunerative to them following increase in the prices of inputs and element of sophistication due to international factors; and

(c) if so, whether Government is considering any proposal to give remunerative price to the farmers for the agricultural produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) There is no survey specifically undertaken by Government of India to analyze the causes that led to suicide by farmers. However, the State Governments have broadly reported crop failure, indebtedness, drought, social and economic insecurity as causes for committing suicide by farmers.

(b) and (c) The Government's price policy for agricultural commodities seeks to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production, and to safeguard the interest of consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices. The price policy also seeks to evolve a balanced and integrated prices structure in the perspective of the overall needs of the economy. Towards this end, the Government announces each season Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities and organizes purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies. The designated central nodal agencies are required to intervene in the market for undertaking procurement operations with the objective that the market prices do not fall below the MSPs fixed by the Government. The Government decides on the support price for various agricultural commodities taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of State Governments and Central Ministries as well as such other relevent factors which are considered important for fixation of support prices.

Loss of crops due to severe cold waves

802. DR. V. MAITREYAN:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the effect of severe cold conditions prevailing in the country to the standing crops, State-wise;

(b) the total loss of crops both in quantity and value due to the erratic weather situation in the country, State-wise;